

Arizona Interagency Radio System (AIRS) Training Project

Presented to SIEC - January 19, 2010

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January 19, 2010

- Now that we have developed and approved an SOP for AIRS, what are our next steps with AIRS?
 - 1) Address Issues through workgroups to improve AIRS
 - 2) Continue Outreach in regard to AIRS and other interoperability issues and resources
 - 3) Develop an AIRS Training program

GOAL: Increase Utility and Utilization of AIRS as a statewide resource



AIRS Training and the SCIP

SCIP Strategic Initiative

5.8.4.1 Develop and Implement a Training Plan to Address Interoperable Communications

3) Develop and implement AIRS training statewide

Scope: This project is designed to ensure effective use of the Arizona Interagency Radio System (AIRS). The State will create and publish an AIRS training curriculum and materials that conform to the approved Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the use of AIRS. The developed materials should explain the purpose of the system, when use of the system is appropriate, and how to use the system.

- ***FFY09 IECGP Grant for \$55,000 awarded to Sedona Fire Department***
- ***Signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) transferred funding from Sedona to GITA-PSIC for implementation***
- ***Grant period of performance is August 1, 2009 – July 31, 2010***



Target Audience

- The target audience for AIRS training:
 - Field Users
 - Dispatch Personnel
 - Management
- Proposal: One Training for all.



Mode of Delivery

- Powerpoint Presentation - yes
- Training Video - yes
 - Online
 - DVD
- Fact Sheet – yes
- SOP – yes
- Other – Any suggestions?



Content of Training

- *Proposed Training Outline:*
 - *Overview; Definition*
 - *Limitations of AIRS*
 - *How / When can AIRS be used*
 - *Priorities of AIRS Use*
 - *Mechanics of AIRS*
 - *Roles: Lead & Monitoring Agencies*
 - *Role of Field User*
 - *Testing*
 - *Problems; More Information*
- *As we review each section, please comment on the level of detail provided and anything we have failed to cover.*



Sample Content for Comment

Overview/Definition of AIRS

- A statewide system that allows for interagency, multi-discipline response to communicate on a single radio platform.
- A system of tri-band repeaters that allows VHF, UHF 700 and 800 Mhz radio users to communicate together without swapping radios or utilizing cache radios.
- Suite of full-time, cross banded mutual aid channels designed to provide interoperable communications capability to first responders.



Limitation of AIRS

- Coverage of AIRS continues to expand but there is not AIRS coverage everywhere in the State.
- AIRS is non-encrypted
- In some areas of the State AIRS is monitored whereas in other areas it is not
- In order to utilize AIRS an MOU must be signed by your agency with DPS. DPS holds the licenses for AIRS frequencies.



How and When can AIRS be used?

- AIRS can be used when two or more agencies are working together on a scene using different radio systems
- AIRS Enables multi-agency, multi-discipline and/or multi-jurisdictional operations



Priorities of AIRS Use

- Disasters, extreme emergencies, large scale incidents
- Incidents where imminent danger exists to life or property
- Incidents requiring the response of multiple agencies
- Pre-planned events requiring mutual aid or interagency response
- Incidents involving a single agency where supplemental communications are needed for short term use
- Itinerant use by out of area personnel (but not for use as a travel channel)
- Drills, tests and exercises



Mechanics of AIRS

- We recommend programming AIRS 1 through 5 and AIRSAZ into all radios.
- The AIRS channel assigned to your region should be used.
- AIRSAZ can also be used except in Maricopa County.



Role of Lead Agency & Monitoring Agency

- Agencies leading multi-agency incidents where AIRS is needed will notify the monitoring communication center by either clearing on air or calling the center and describing the nature of the incident.
- If AIRS is available, the lead agency will confirm it is assuming responsibility for dispatching the incident which includes responsibility for monitoring and responding on AIRS and coordinating other agency unit responses as requested or needed.
- The monitoring agency should continue to monitor in case of a change in status.
- At termination of an incident, the lead agency will announce that the channel is clear, document the time and notify the monitoring communications center that the channel is available.
- If AIRS is not available, alternatives will be evaluated.



Role of Field User

- Notification of need for use of system
- Delay for communications to open up all three radio repeaters.
- Use of ICS to be compliant with NIMS.
- Requirement to use Plain Language.
- Requirement to Announce your Organization and Unit Identifier.



Testing

- AIRS will be tested through regular tests, drills and pre-planned events.
- The more it is used, the more utility it will provide during actual incidents.



Problems; More Information

- To Report Problems with AIRS, please notify the DPS WSB NOC at 602-223-2245
- For Additional Information contact: SIEC through the PSIC Office.

Comments?

Questions?

Discussion